

~~SECRET~~

MCO

525X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
4 November 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Reaction of Tito and His Entourage to His US Visit

The Yugoslav President, a strong advocate of personal diplomacy, departed US shores well-satisfied with the outcome of his ten-day visit. He apparently believes he established a useful degree of rapport with President Kennedy, with whom he considered he spoke a common language. The members of Tito's entourage and other important regime officials are reportedly also enthusiastic in their appraisals of the success of his trip. The activities of anti-Tito pickets in New York did not significantly affect the favorable impressions formed by the Yugoslavs as a result of the visit.

1. Tito came away from his talks with the President convinced that the latter desires peace as much as he does and that he and the President are in general agreement on all problems except Cuba. This "essential similarity of views," according to the Yugoslav party's weekly journal, "will permit Yugoslav-US relations to develop on stable and lasting foundations." According to the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry's spokesman, the talks were "very successful" and transcended in their significance the bounds of bilateral relations.

2. Renowned for his ego and high regard for protocol, Tito was personally pleased by the ceremonies accorded him in Washington which, he believed, gave his stay the status of an official state visit. He

State Department review completed

25X1

~~SECRET~~

was also appreciative of the personal courtesies shown him by President Kennedy, especially a bon voyage telephone call on 24 October. 25X1

5. The only untoward aspect of the visit, in the Yugoslav view, was the activity of anti-Tito pickets. Tito, obviously upset by their actions, mentioned them several times 25X1

[redacted] and the Croatian government on 23 October placed the US Consulate in Zagreb under guard "in light of the New York incidents involving President Tito's party." Tito's reaction not only reflects his personality, but also Yugoslav sensitivity to the fact that anti-Tito elements in the US have been able to bring pressure to bear on the US government adversely affecting Yugoslav interests. 25X1

6. Nevertheless, a Yugoslav Foreign Ministry official in Belgrade assured US diplomats on 30 October that the Yugoslav leadership was determined not to let these incidents affect good relations with the US. Vladimir Popovic predicted that they would soon be forgotten. In his departure speech, Tito referred to them only as petty provocations, and all Yugoslav officials have stated that they did not believe the incidents reflected the sentiments of the American people. The Yugoslav press has blamed them solely on the laxity of the New York police.

~~SECRET~~